Ministry of Social Services

Plan for 2018-19

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Government of Saskatchewan

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Statement from the Minister

The Honourable Paul Merriman

Minister of Social Services

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Social Services' Plan for 2018-19.

Government Direction and Budget for 2018-19 is focused on keeping Saskatchewan On Track by controlling spending, delivering high quality services for Saskatchewan people, keeping our economy strong, and returning to balance in 2019-20.

Social Services works with a diverse range of partners to build safe, dynamic communities that promote inclusion and enhance the quality of life for our province's most vulnerable people.

This is a challenging time for the Ministry, but with challenge also comes the opportunity to review where we can improve services and find efficiencies. As caseloads continue to increase in some areas, we are continuing to focus on improving outcomes for people in need.

In 2018-19, we will continue our work on income assistance redesign – reviewing the complicated and challenging system that has evolved over the last 50 years and finding ways to strengthen and simplify it, making it easier for clients to navigate and access supports for their basic needs.

We will continue our commitment to the renewal of the child welfare system with our First Nations and Métis partners, including a focus on prevention so more children can remain safely with their families.

Our plan for 2018-19 includes many more initiatives that will help make life better for Saskatchewan's people.

The Ministry will report on progress made toward this plan, within the financial parameters provided, in the 2018-19 Annual Report.

Response to Government Direction

The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to keeping the province On Track through prudent fiscal management. We will succeed by spending wisely, supporting economic growth, and ensuring services are sustainable.

This focus will continue to advance Government toward the realization of Saskatchewan's Vision and goals.

Saskatchewan's Vision

"... to be the best place in Canada – to live, to work, to start a business, to get an education, to raise a family and to build a life."

- **Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people**
- **Meeting the challenges of growth**
- **Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people**
- **Delivering responsive and responsible government**

Saskatchewan's Vision and goals provide the framework for ministries, agencies and partners to align their programs and services and meet the needs of Saskatchewan's residents.

All ministries and agencies will report on progress in their 2018-19 annual reports.

Operational Plan

Mandate Statement

The Ministry helps children be safe from abuse and neglect, and individuals to meet their basic needs and participate in their community

Mission Statement

We deliver programs and services that help people in need achieve a better quality of life

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Programs and services set the foundation to meet our clients' basic needs

Strategy

Children in out-of-home care are safe, have stability, and make successful life transitions

Key Action

- Strengthen family- and community-based supports for children in care

Performance Measures

Children placed with extended family

Sixty per cent of children in out-of-home care are placed with extended family by March 31, 2022

The number of foster homes available to provide family-based care

A total of one hundred and fifty new approved foster homes by March 31, 2022
A total of five hundred and sixty approved foster homes in the province by March 31, 2022

Strategy

People experiencing disabilities have improved quality of life and are included in their communities

Key Actions

- Complete the transition of people living at Valley View Centre to homes in the community
- Implement recommendations from the provincial Disability Strategy
- Implement an individualized funding program for children under the age of six who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Performance Measures

Valley View Centre Residents

There are no residents remaining at Valley View Centre by December 31, 2019

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Citizens gain independence through self-reliance and prevention

Strategy

People experiencing low income have improved quality of life through strengthened programs and services

Key Action

- Continue to implement the Saskatchewan Poverty Reduction Strategy

Performance Measures

Number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty

By March 31, 2025, the number of Saskatchewan people who experience poverty for two years or more will be reduced by 50 per cent

Strategy

Families are supported to safely care for their children

Key Action

- Strengthen family-focused and prevention practices so children can be cared for safely at home

Performance Measures

By March 2022, the proportion of children who receive services at home will increase by 5 percentage points

Strategy

Affordable housing is available and accessible for Saskatchewan citizens with priority given to individuals and families in greatest need

Key Actions

- Improve access and ensure consistent delivery of service to clients by increasing the effectiveness and sustainability of the social and affordable housing systems
- Negotiate with our federal housing partner, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, on the National Housing Strategy to maximize investments to support those most in housing need
- Work with northern communities and stakeholders to increase housing opportunities and respond to housing needs in the north
- Implement the Seniors Education Property Tax Deferral Program

Performance Measures

Client Satisfaction Ratings

Achieve a client satisfaction rating of 90 per cent by March 31, 2022

Reduction of Saskatchewan households in housing need

In 10 years, serve 15 per cent more households that were in housing need

Strategy

Clients on income assistance make sustainable transitions to employment

Key Actions

- Redesign income assistance programs to ensure they are sustainable and user friendly

Performance Measures

Proportion of income assistance clients who are employable and use the program for six months or less

Through March 31, 2022, 85 per cent of clients without barriers to employment leave income assistance within six months or less of enrolment

Government Goals

Sustaining growth and opportunities for Saskatchewan people

Meeting the challenges of growth

Securing a better quality of life for all Saskatchewan people

Delivering responsive and responsible government

Ministry Goal

Our people and our organization are effective and efficient

Strategy

Our culture demonstrates our commitment to excellence

Key Actions

- Promote cultural values across diverse employee groups
- Continue to implement the Ministry's Safety Action Plan
- Improve representation and inclusion of diverse employee groups in the Ministry's workforce

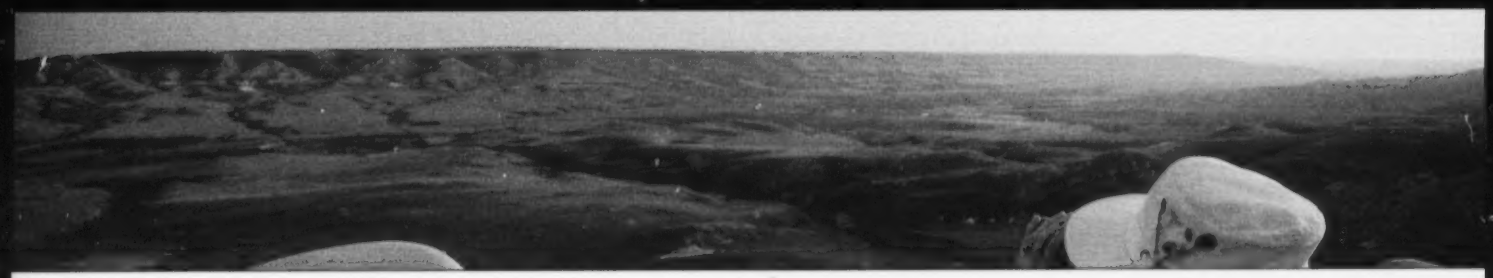
Performance Measures

Workforce safety

The workforce injury rate will be 2.1 per cent or less by March 31, 2020

Workforce diversity

The workforce representation of employee groups meets or exceeds Saskatchewan Human Rights Commission targets by March 31, 2022



Strategy

Delivery of Ministry programs is innovative and accountable

Key Actions

- Mature the use of social finance funding mechanisms for service delivery partners

Strategy

Ministry physical and information technology supports are modern

Key Action

- Enhance client system supports to provide efficient user friendly service

Highlights

The Government of Saskatchewan will continue its commitment to support those in greatest need in our province. Programs and services for the most vulnerable citizens in Saskatchewan, including individuals, children and families in need of social supports, will continue to be available. Highlights of the Ministry's budget include:

Disability Supports

The Ministry continues to support individuals experiencing disabilities, including residents of Valley View Centre who are transitioning to community-based services. The 2018-19 budget includes an increase of $9.9 million to help Valley View residents successfully transition into new homes in communities around the province.

Some individuals currently receiving services from the Ministry will require enhanced services in 2018-19. An increase of $9 million will provide services for children aging into adult care as well as for adults who are in crisis or whose needs have changed.

A funding lift of $6.9 million will be provided to Social Services community-based organizations that deliver critical residential and direct daily care to adults with intellectual disabilities and $1.3 million will be provided for Approved Private Service Homes that provide residential supports for adults with intellectual disabilities and individuals with a Mental Health disability.

Income Assistance

In 2018-19, the Saskatchewan Assistance Program (SAP) budget will increase by $14.2 million, to $178.3 million, due to caseload growth. About 15,000 households each month receive SAP benefits to help them meet their basic needs. Programs such as the Seniors Income Plan, Saskatchewan Employment Supplement and the Personal Care Home Benefit have budget reductions in 2018-19 based on the projected need for these programs. A reduction in the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement budget is planned as the program will suspend the intake of new applications as of July 1, 2018.

A further investment of $9.2 million will support continued efforts to redesign the province's suite of income assistance programs. The Ministry is working to simplify programs; increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery; and establish a new IT platform to support income assistance programs.

Child and Family Programs

In 2018-19, the Ministry will continue working to keep children safe and families strong with investments in Child and Family Programs. Increased support in the coming year includes the following:

- $4.5 million to address increases in extended family care;
- $2.3 million for private treatment costs including costs for medically fragile children;
- $1.0 million for a funding lift for family based care arrangements such as foster care;
- $0.3 million to address utilization increases in Assisted Adoption and Youth Services programs;
- $1.2 million for a funding lift for Child and Family community-based organizations that deliver essential residential and intensive services to children in need of protection; and
- $3.1 million to assist with service delivery and operational costs.

Housing

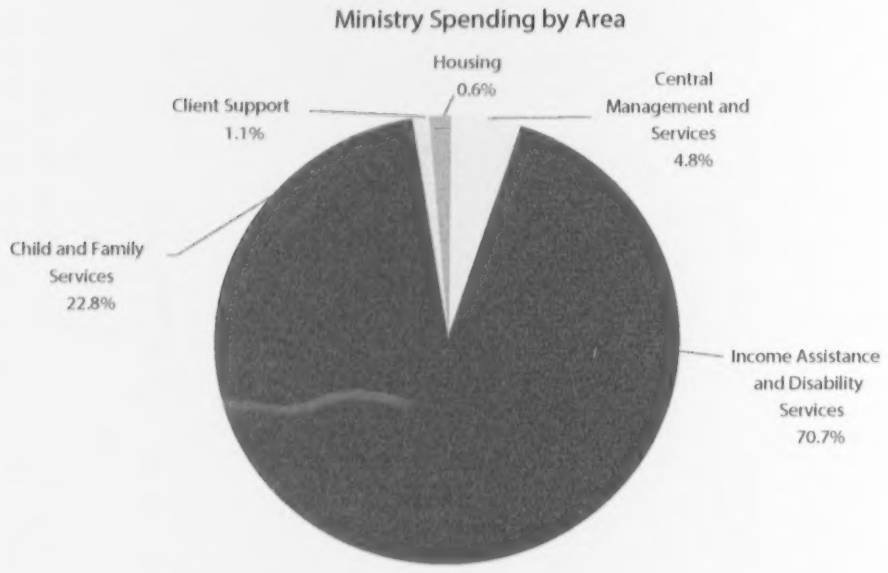
The Ministry's 2018-19 budget continues the Province's commitment to provide better access to safe, quality and affordable housing for Saskatchewan people through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation. With the release of the Government of Canada's National Housing Strategy in November 2017, the Province will be working to ensure support for vulnerable populations and to preserve social housing stock for future generations.

Through the Saskatchewan Housing Corporation, our continued investment supports programs such as Habitat for Humanity and the federal/provincial bilateral Investment in Affordable Housing Agreement and the Social Infrastructure Fund. The Agreement extends to 2019 and is to be used for new affordable housing supply, emergency home repairs and home adaptations for people with disabilities.

Financial Summary

2018-19 Estimates	(in thousands of dollars)
Central Management and Services	56,239
Income Assistance and Disability Services	837,384
Child and Family Services	270,443
Client Support	12,389
Housing	7,571
Ministry Appropriation	**1,184,026**
Capital Asset Acquisitions	(10,100)
Non-Appropriated Expense Adjustment	5,553
Ministry Expense	**1,179,479**

For more information, see the Budget Estimates at: http://www.saskatchewan.ca/budget



For More Information

Please visit the Ministry's website at http://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/social-services